

**STATE POLICE OFFICERS COUNCIL**

Represented by  
**Maxine Moore Ballard**

**IOWA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION**

Represented by  
**John Cacciatore & Justin Hupfer**

**IOWA STATE PATROL SUPERVISORS' ASSOCIATION**

Represented by  
**Tom Fey and Mike St. Clair**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE IOWA LEGISLATIVE JOINT INTERIM STUDY  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION SYSTEMS BY THE  
EMPLOYEE GROUPS OF CHAPTER 97A, NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

The Peace Officers Retirement System (POR, 97A) provides pension benefits for the peace officer members of the Department of Public Safety in the following divisions: Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Patrol, and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

This pension system is similar to the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (411), and the members of these systems are exempt from Social Security.

POR was well funded until the downturn in the markets affected this system as well as most other pension systems in the United States. This downturn in the markets, actuarial experience, and other factors have negatively affected the funded ratio of the system. Additionally, during this time no new officers were hired while officers continued to retire.

The POR Board of Trustees on October 23, 2007, adopted a recommendation in an effort to address this situation. The 97A employee groups listed above support this recommendation. The Board certified the employee contribution rate to remain at 9.35% and proposed a long term plan that provides a state appropriation of \$5 million per year coupled with a 2% annual increase in the state contribution rate to the system until the system is fully funded. In addition to the Peace Officers Retirement System Board recommendation, the 97A employee groups emphasize that, upon reaching full funding status of the system, the State interpret Chapter 97A in a manner consistent with the Municipal Fire & Police Retirement System in Chapter 411 whereby the employer (the State) increases its contribution rate to pay for any future shortfalls in the system. Legislative history supports consistent implementation of the two systems.

**Contact: Maxine Moore Ballard at 515-986-1981 or [Ballardmoore@aol.com](mailto:Ballardmoore@aol.com).  
Tom Fey at 515-971-6769 or John Cacciatore at 515-224-8957**